

**Frigate-bird at Fremantle.**—About noon on May 5, 1951, while a passenger on s.s. *Largs Bay* as she was leaving Fremantle, I saw a Frigate-bird (*Fregata* sp.) circling inside the harbour entrance, not far from the ship. Its unmistakable angular outline, with deeply-forked tail and large pointed wings were clearly seen; the head and bill were buff, and there was a white diamond-shaped patch on the fore-part of the abdomen; the plumage was otherwise black. This description, taken from notes made at the time, makes it clear that the bird was one in immature plumage, but it is not possible to be sure of the species. It is most likely to have been a specimen of the Greater Frigate-bird (*Fregata minor*), which breeds on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

The only previous record of a Frigate-bird so far south on the coast of Western Australia is of one captured alive in the Swan River on May 4, 1917, after stormy weather. This was identified as a specimen of *F. minor*, and of the form which breeds on Christmas Island (W. B. Alexander, *The Emu*, vol. 17, 1918, p. 238; vol. 20, 1921, p. 161).

From information kindly supplied by the Weather Bureau there does not appear to have been anything abnormal preceding the appearance of the bird here recorded. The fact that both records are in early May suggests that members of this species tend to wander southwards at this time of year.

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**Gilbert's Note-book on Marsupials.**—Respecting Mr. Calaby's comments (*W.A. Nat.*, 4, pp. 147-8) I offer the following solution of the problem concerning the type locality of the western race of the Pig-footed Bandicoot. I premise that "the original label of the specimen seems to have been lost. The present one is in Oldfield Thomas' handwriting, and says 'Boorda, 40 mi. N.E. of Kirltana, W.A.' . . . The skull has the back part broken . . . the ears have what could be shot holes in them . . ." (*Per* T. C. S. Morrison-Scott, British Museum, in a letter to me dated September 28, 1954).

The meaning of the word "boorda" (or "burda"), in the context with which we are concerned, is not clear. In the South-western (Bibbulmun) language it had the meaning of "presently, by and by". It does not appear that it had any other meaning in that language. If, then, it was, in fact, applied to the Pig-footed Bandicoot by South-western aborigines, they must have taken it from another language or dialect, presumably from one spoken by a tribe which inhabited the salt lake country. It is noteworthy that there is in that country a township called Boodaroekin. South of that township, about midway between Merredin and Southern Cross, is the township of Boddalin. In the absence of evidence it seems best to take the meaning of "boorda", for our present purposes, as being that given to it by John Gilbert, i.e. that it means the Pig-footed Bandicoot. It may be concluded that it is not cou-

rected with "burdi" ("Boodie"), the South-western name for a species of rat-kangaroo.

"Kirltana" suggests the Tasmanian aborigines, but the circumstances, so far as they are known to me, preclude the possibility of an ex-Western Australian origin. "Kirl" and "tana" (I retain, for convenience, Thomas' orthography) are aboriginal words of the Albany dialect, meaning "kyllie" (boomerang) and "pierceed" or "penetrated" (with an implied 'hit' or "struck") respectively.

On the basis as stated above, "Boorda kirl tana" would have the meaning of "a kylie struck the Pig-footed Bandicoot", an interpretation which is not inconsistent with the evidence that I have seen. I have, however, seen no details of the personnel of the expedition which got the specimen and brought it to Gilbert. I can only conclude that the words were uttered by a native of the Albany district. It seems clear enough that Gilbert did not understand the meaning of "Kirltana". Apparently he did write it on the label, but in such a disjointed manner that it conveyed no meaning. Very likely Thomas surmised that "Kirltana" was a place; the label may have conveyed so much to him. And if that be so, then Gilbert must have thought that the "boorda" had been taken at a place named "Kirltana" in the "Walyemara" district.

"Walye" would appear to be the eastern equivalent of the Perth "walyo" and of the Albany "wah!" ("l" probably liquid), a species of Rat-Kangaroo. The Albany word for "hand" was "marr": further north the word "marhra" (or, loosely, "mara") was used. I conclude that "Walyema" and "Walyemara" were uttered by natives of Albany and of (say) Perth, respectively. I conclude further that "Walyurmouring", "Walyormouring", "Wolyumary", and "Wal-yare-maury" were uttered by natives of the "Walyemara" district. The inference is that there was at least one native of Albany in the expedition which got the specimen. It is true that Gilbert used "Walyemara", but the "rr" in "marr" would probably have been "rolled" and have had the suggestion of an "h" after it, so the sound conveyed to Gilbert would have been not unlike "mara", the word used by Perth natives, and one with which he was probably familiar.

In "The New Atlas of Australia", dated 1886, published by John Sands, Sydney, "Victoria County" (W.A.) is described as "situated north of the County of York and south of Glenelg. The Mortloek River and the Toodyay Brook, tributaries of the Swan River, take their rise within it. Toodyay and Bejording . . . are the principal settlements . . ." Map No. 5, W.A. Section, shows "Walyumouring" in the County as (it seems) a settlement. Thirty-five years ago 718 acres of the "Walyumouring" country was set aside as a Reserve for Fauna. Adjoining that Reserve on its north and east boundaries, is what I understand is known locally as the "Oak Park Reserve", a reserve for water. It is thought that a report on both reserves, from the point of view of the naturalist, made by someone conversant with local conditions, would be of interest to naturalists.

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